

On Stage with American Family Theater Tom Sawyer



Table of Contents

Letter from the Producer	3
Before You Go	4
Theater Etiquette	5
Scenic Breakdown	6
Synopsis	7 & 8
About the Author	9
After the Show	10
Interdisciplinary Activities	11 & 12
Acrostic	13
Think Theatrically	14
Fan Letter	15
Theater Vocabulary	16
Write a Review	17
Careers in the Arts	18
Word Search	19
Draw a Picture.....	20



On Stage with American Family Theater



Dear Educator:

This guide contains suggested learning experiences for various grade levels. It is intended to help your students enjoy and utilize the theater-going experience. Please select those ideas that best relate to your curriculum and classroom needs. We would appreciate knowing which suggestions you actually incorporated into your lesson plans and how they worked for you.

Share your fun and ideas with us. We will be pleased to receive any projects that grow from this experience... letters, cassettes, original drawings, photos, etc. You may send them to:

American Family Theater, Inc.
1429 Walnut Street
4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Theater is, indeed, a superb learning tool that you and your students will share, cherish and remember. We look forward to welcoming you and your classes to the theater.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Wagman".

Laurie Wagman
Founder/Chairman


On Stage with American Family Theater



Before You Go:


ASK the students to recall the story of TOM SAWYER by telling it informally, as they remember it. Have they recounted the traditional story or an adaptation? Discuss the fact that there are many versions or adaptations of all tales. Identify the main characters and the basic story using the attached synopsis.

DETERMINE if they have seen the story of TOM SAWYER performed before (On film? On stage? At school? In professional theater? Maybe on TV or video?) and in what art form. (Play? Ballet? etc.) Maybe they have read the book? Discuss any recollections in terms of similarities and differences. Do the different art forms affect their impressions? If so, try to make them aware of their varying reactions.

SET a part of the classroom aside for a 'Tom Sawyer Corner'. Ask students to bring in various books, CD's, tapes, pictures, dolls, puppets, original drawings, etc. for perusing at their leisure. 

EXPLAIN to students that they are about to see a live, on-stage production of TOM SAWYER. There will be songs and dances, as well as acting, to tell the story.

Note: This original musical adaptation is presented by American Family Theater for audiences across the country. Students can expect to see the traditional Tom Sawyer characters.

 **ENCOURAGE** the students to relax and get into the spirit of the play once they are in the theater. Tell them they should use their imaginations freely and feel comfortable to respond openly to the actors on the stage.

On Stage With American Family Theater



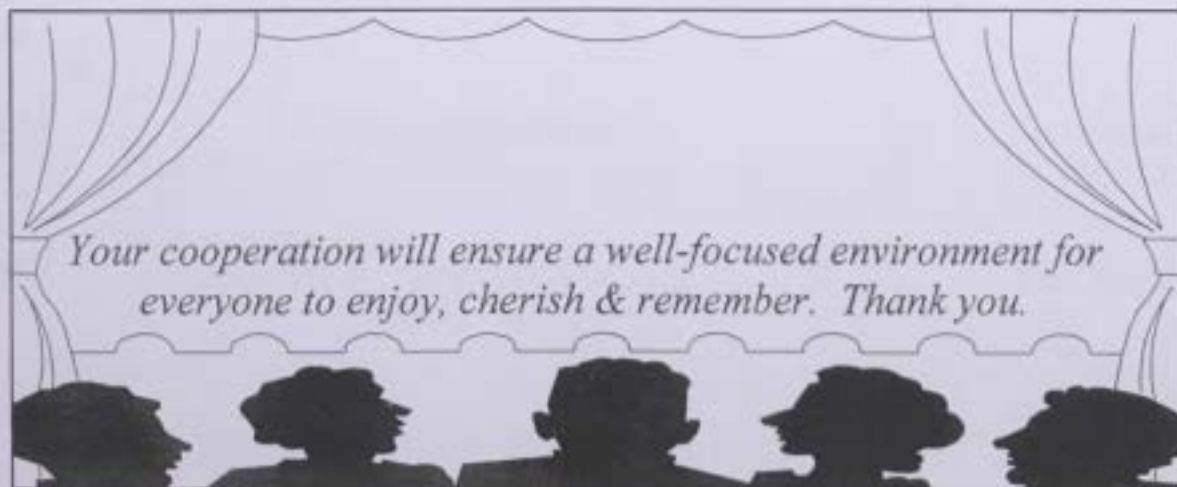
Theater Etiquette

The audience plays a key part in the overall theater experience. Each audience member affects those around him or her as well as the performers.

Remind your class that everyone will have an especially wonderful time at the performance by remembering their theater manners.

Here is how students can help:

- ❖ It is important to remain seated throughout the entire performance.
- ❖ Restroom visits are best made prior to seating.
- ❖ Photography and recording during the performance are not permitted.
- ❖ Give your full attention and energy to the performers. In return, the performers give it back to you with a better performance.
- ❖ Don't talk during the show unless you are asked. Sometimes we think that if we whisper, it is okay. But if everyone in the audience whispers, it can be disruptive to the performers.
- ❖ Turn watches, pagers and cell phones to silent.
- ❖ Do not interrupt performers with comments that may disrupt the performance for others.
- ❖ Show the performers your appreciation for their efforts by applauding.



On Stage with American Family Theater Tom Sawyer



Scenic Breakdown:



Book, Lyrics & Music: Don Kersey

CHARACTERS

Tom	School Teacher (Miss Allen)
Huck	Injun Joe
Captain	Dolly
Becky	Aunt Polly
Jim	Preacher

SCENIC BREAKDOWN/MUSICAL NUMBERS

SCENE 1	The Dock of the Riverboat "Magnolia Queen"	
	"SHOWBOAT".....	The Company
	"HEY THERE".....	The Company
SCENE 2	The White Washed Fence	
	"FRIENDS".....	Tom, Jim & Huck
SCENE 3	The School Yard	
	"BAD BOY"	Huck, Becky & Miss Allen
	"THOMASINA".....	Huck, Becky & Tom
SCENE 4	The Picnic	
	"SQUARE DANCE".....	The Company
	"GET 'EM OUT".....	The Company
SCENE 5	Injun Joe's Cabin	
SCENE 6	The Funeral	
	"WE AIN'T GONNA CRY NO MORE".....	The Company
	"I DON'T CARE".....	The Company
SCENE 7	Back at the Riverboat	
	"EVERYBODY GATHER 'ROUND".....	The Company

On Stage with American Family Theater Tom Sawyer



American Family Theatre's production of Tom Sawyer is a delightful piece of Americana. The play begins on the mighty Mississippi River that Mark Twain loved. A big riverboat is pulling up to dock in your town. It's the Magnolia Queen, a showboat that carries some of the finest actors the Mississippi has ever seen.

(Showboat) The actors lower the gangplank and the showboat Captain introduces himself and the play that they are about to

perform, Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. The Captain introduces each of his actors and explains which part they will play in the production.

First up is the Captain's wife, Dolly. She is a happy woman and loves being a part of the showboat. She is performing the roles of Aunt Polly and the schoolteacher. Next is the young ingénue Abigail Andrews. She is a beautiful young woman with a vivacious smile that has broken hearts all along the Mississippi. She will be playing Becky Thatcher, the sweet young girl who captures the heart of Tom Sawyer.

The showboat's first mate is next. His name is Harley Davis, one of the finest character actors on the river. He will be lending his skills to the role of Jim, friend and advisor to Huck Finn and protector of Tom Sawyer. The last of the boat's crew is Colin Colby, the leading man of the Magnolia Queen. He will be portraying one of the title roles, Huckleberry Finn.

The Captain says that he will play all the other parts that are required. His wife Dolly laughs at the thought of him playing Tom Sawyer, because he is just too old. The Captain has a brilliant idea on how to fill the role of Tom Sawyer. He points to the audience and declares that they will find him out there. **(Hey There)**

From the back of the audience runs a young man who declares himself the perfect choice. He says that his name is Tom Sawyer. He took it on as a stage name since he always wanted to be an actor. They try the costume on him and it is a perfect fit. The Captain tells everyone to get changed so the show can begin. **(Showboat reprise)**

The lights change and the scene is set for Adventure number one. Tom Sawyer is looking for his fishing pole, but his Aunt Polly has hidden it because she has other ideas. He is going to whitewash her picket fence. She leaves him to start his work and Jim enters from behind the fence. Tom cons him into helping out by telling him how much fun whitewashing really is. Huck Finn runs on and sees them working on the fence. Tom also cons him into helping out and since there are only two brushes he sits down in the shade. Polly enters and catches Huck and Jim doing Tom's work for him. She tells the boys that when they finish with this fence, since they want to help so badly, there is also the back fence. Huck and Jim realize that they have been duped. They decide to whitewash Tom Sawyer. Of course Tom is able to weasel his way out by telling them that this is no way to treat a fishing buddy. The three stick together through thick and thin, no matter what. **(Tom, Jim, Huckleberry Finn)**





The captain comes in and introduces adventure number two. The set moves and we are in front of the town school. Becky Thatcher and Miss Allen the schoolteacher are discussing the absence of Tom Sawyer from school today. Ms. Allen goes back inside the school and Tom and Huck sneak in and try to get Becky's attention. They have been fishing. Ms. Allen returns just in time to catch them and Tom has to try to explain his way out of trouble. He comes up with a tall-tale about a cousin Thomasina in visiting from the next county. Ms. Allen sends him to go bring his cousin to her since she doesn't believe him. She then turns her attention to Huck Finn. He hasn't been to school in a long time. She wishes he wouldn't come to school at all since he is a bad influence. Huck then explains the fun of being a **(Bad Boy)**.

Tom returns dressed in a very ugly wig and dress. He is trying to pass himself off as his fictional cousin. Ms. Allen sees through the bad disguise and promptly informs Tom that she is going to tell his Aunt Polly. As she leaves, Huck and Becky tell Tom how beautiful he looks. **(Thomasina Sawyer)**

Adventure number three begins with a big square dance. **(Skip To My Lou)** Aunt Polly catches Tom and Huck with their hands in the pickle barrel. She yells at them and Huck drops the pickle in the lemonade. Percy Perkins, (The Captain), has made that lemonade from a very special recipe. He goes to ladle a cup for Polly when he discovers the pickle. Of course, they know exactly who to blame. **(Get 'Em Out)** and **(Skip To My Lou Reprise)**

The captain tries to catch his breath as he announces adventure number four. Tom and Huck enter Injun Joe's cabin and start snooping around. They create a mess and hear someone coming through the door. It is Injun Joe. Tom and Huck hide. They are soon discovered by Injun Joe, who promptly chases them around the cabin. Tom and Huck manage to knock Injun Joe out cold and run out of the cabin. He crawls offstage and the door opens again. It is Jim and Aunt Polly. They heard Tom's plans of coming to Joe's cabin and they have come to save them. They find a hankie that Tom had dropped and it is covered with tomato juice. They believe it to be Tom's blood and start to mourn the loss of Tom and Huck.

Tom and Huck meanwhile have decided to hide out in the local church. They don't think anyone would look for them there. A funeral procession enters. The preacher is followed by a wailing Aunt Polly, Becky Thatcher, and Jim who are all mourning the loss of Tom and Huck. One by one they talk about the two boys whom they loved. **(Aint Gonna Cry No More)** Tom and Huck get caught up in the spiritual and start making noise. They are discovered. Are they ghosts or real live boys? Jim tests them to see if they are ghosts and realizes that they are alive. Aunt Polly calls for a celebration. Tom and Huck are alive and that's all that matters. **(I Don't Care)** The cast gets the audience to join in the celebration. **(Everybody Gather Round)**

The captain declares the show over. He has each actor come and take their bow. Tom Sawyer decides to leave with them. He has always wanted to be an actor, and they will never find a better Tom Sawyer! They pack up and move onto the next town down the river. **(Showboat reprise)** Be on the lookout for the showboat, it may be coming to your town.



On Stage with American Family Theater Mark Twain (1835-1910)



About the Author

Mark Twain, a pen name for Samuel Clemens, was born on November 30, 1835 in Florida, Missouri. His family later moved to a port town on the Mississippi River called Hannibal, Missouri, where his father owned a grocery store. It was this town that would serve as a model for many of the characters & settings in his stories.

In Hannibal, he became an apprentice to printers & in 1851 he began setting type & sketching for his own brother's newspaper. He worked as a printer, steamboat pilot & briefly served as a soldier in the Confederate Army. In 1862 he became a reporter on the Territorial Enterprise & that was when he started signing his articles by his pen name.

In 1870 he married Olivia Langdon from Elmira, New York. Together they moved to Hartford, Connecticut. They had four children, Langdon, Olivia, Clara and Jane.

The Adventure's of Tom Sawyer was the first of four novels centered around the Mississippi Valley & his personal memoirs of growing up in Hannibal in the 1840's (Twain wrote 2 sequels to Tom Sawyer, Tom Sawyer Abroad in 1894 & Tom Sawyer, Detective in 1896). The second book, The Adventure's of Huckleberry Finn was written over the next eight years. It was immediately banned from public libraries but it has since been recognized as a masterpiece.

Some of Twain's other books include a children's book focusing on switched identities called The Prince & the Pauper (1882), Life on the Mississippi (1883), which was autobiographical & A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1889).

Twain, who many consider to be the father of modern American literature, wrote his stories in natural speech & his characters had common, everyday problems that readers of all ages can enjoy & identify with.



On Stage with American Family Theater



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Ask the students to express their feelings as they recall the story line of the production.



- In what ways were Tom and Huck "bad" boys? Do you think they were really bad? In what ways were they good?
- What is the relationship between Tom & Huck Finn?
- What is the relationship between Tom & Aunt Polly?
- What things did the boys like to do best?
- In what ways was Jim a friend to Tom and Huck?
- What made Injun Joe so scary?
- Have you ever painted (or whitewashed) a fence? Was it hard, fun or boring?
- What do you think happened to Tom and Huck after they disappeared from the raft?
- What do you think life was like for a crew on board a Showboat?
- Discuss the idea of a play-within-a-play.



ALTERNATE TITLES

Have the students be creative and think of some other possible titles for the show.

TIMELINE

Create a timeline of events in Mark Twain's life.

On Stage with American Family Theater



HISTORY

- ❖ Learn about life during the Mississippi Riverboat Era. Discuss the ideas of a Showboat.
What was the purpose of having a show travel along the river.

LANGUAGE ARTS

❖ WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:



- Write a sequel to the Tom Sawyer story.
- Have students play the character in the show and other students interview them and write articles about them.
- Write about an adventure you had with your friends.

❖ VOCABULARY

Use a dictionary to look up some vocabulary from the show. Be sure to use them in a sentence! *Disguise, paddlewheel, riverboat, whitewash*

❖ WORD GAMES:

- Have the students find as many words as they can using the letters in:



T O M S A W Y E R

- Unscramble these words:

WBOOHAST (Showboat)	IPISISMSPIS (Mississippi)
VUTRNDEEA (Adventure)	AWHTSHIEW (Whitewash)

TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ Use the interviews and articles about the show and character to create a newspaper using a word processing program. Include advertisements too!
- ❖ Research Mark Twain on the internet.



GEOGRAPHY

- ❖ Plan your own riverboat show, up and down the Mississippi River. Decide your route and how many miles between each stop.
- ❖ Learn/practice map skills by creating a map of the escape route from Injun Joe's cabin back to the raft.



PERFORMING ARTS

- ❖ After attending the performance, watch other versions of Tom Sawyer. Compare them to our live production. What are the differences in the way the story was presented? What kind of things can you do on film and not on stage? What are the benefits/limitations in each of the art forms?
- ❖ Learn to Square Dance and research the origins of Square Dancing. Did Square Dancing inspire any other forms of dance?



ART

- ❖ Plan and paint a large mural showing Tom's Adventures.

SCIENCE

- ❖ Study the technology of Steamboats. How they work...when they were invented and by whom.



On Stage with American Family Theater



Acrostic

An acrostic is a simple poem based upon a single word. Use the words Tom Sawyer and try to find other words or phrases, beginning with those letters, that pertain to our show.

T HOMASINA SAWYER

O _____

M _____

S _____

A _____

W _____

Y _____

E _____

R _____

On Stage with American Family Theater



THINK THEATRICALY:

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION:

- Describe the sets and how they establish the scenes for different parts of the story. (What did you actually see and what did you see with your imagination?)
- How did the addition of music and dance add to the story?
- What kind of dances did you see? (Ballet? Waltz? Etc.) How were they different?
- What did the different costumes tell you about each character?
- What do you think was the funniest part of the show? The scariest? The nicest?
- Have you ever been to a live stage show before?
- What role did the audience play in the production?
- If you could be in the show, which role would you prefer?
- What other stories do you think would be fun to see as a play?

Note: American Family Theater uses highly technical special effects called intellibeams that create special effects with moving patterns of light and color both on stage and in the audience.

HOW ABOUT YOU:

- Do you like to act? Sing? Dance?
- Have you ever been on stage?
- What did you do on stage?
- Share your experience with your class.
- Would you like to be in a show?




CREATE YOUR OWN MUSICAL:

Write your own story or choose a favorite storybook and make a musical out of it. Start by writing a script, music & lyrics. Decide who will play each part, who will sing and who will dance.

Choreograph the song(s). Have the students not playing parts design sets and costumes and make them. Give everyone a job that best suits their capabilities! Perform your play for another class or grade.

A diagram showing a laser beam source at the top, emitting a cone of light that expands downwards. The beam is represented by two lines diverging from a single point at the top to a larger circular base at the bottom.

Write a letter to your favorite actor in the show. Express how you feel about the character in the show.



On Stage with American Family Theater



Here is a list of words about the theater for you to get to know!

Actor	A theatrical performer.
Applause	Approval expressed by the clapping of hands.
Back-Stage	The area behind and to the side of the part of the stage where the action of the performance takes place.
Choreographer	The person who develops and arranges the dance movements for the dancers and actors.
Composer	A person who writes music.
Costume	A style of clothes, including garments, accessories and hair style, characteristic of a particular country, period or cultural, worn on-stage during a theatrical production.
Crew	The group of people who run the various technical operations during a performance, including the lighting, curtain, set, scene changes, sound effects and props.
Designers	Individuals who create the set, costumes, lighting and sound effects for the performance.
Director	The person who supervises all the artists during rehearsals and instructs all dramatic aspects of the production.
Lyricist	The person who writes the words for a song.
Musical Theater	A play that uses music, song and dance to tell the story.
Play	A staged representation of an action or story.
Playwright	The person who writes plays.
Props	All the objects used in a theatrical production.
Score	The sheet music that the actor memorizes and performs.
Script	Pages from which the actors read their lines.
Stage Manager	The person who assists the director during rehearsal and supervises the physical aspects of a stage production.

On Stage with American Family Theater



Compose Your Own Review. Use the words below for some ideas.

Actors	Choreography	Makeup	Props	Singing
Cast	Costumes	Music	Set	Special Effects
Characters	Lighting	Plot	Set Designer	Theater



On Stage with American Family Theater



Accompanist



Computer Graphics

Illustrator

Props Designer

Actor/Actress

Composer

Instrumentalist

Publisher

Artist

Concert Singer

Librettist

Scenic Designer

Artistic Director

Conductor

Lighting Designer



Special Effects

Art Teacher

Costume Designer

Makeup Artist

Stage Director

Band Director

Critic

Music Teacher

Stage Hand

Casting Director

Dancer

Musician

Stage Manager

Choir Director



Dialect Coach

Orchestrator

Theater Director

Choreographer

Extra

Painter

Camera Operator

Cinematographer

Fashion Designer

Producer

Vocalist



Active Learning

What career would you consider interesting? Where do you think you could go to learn more about it?

On Stage with American Family Theater

Word Search

American Family Theater brings many wonderful classics to life on stage. Each musical production is filled with beautiful dance, costumes, sets, song and special effects to tell the story.

Find and circle the names of favorite characters from the word bank below. The names can go up, down, diagonal, backwards or forwards.



A	I	E	V	A	N	K	N	W	E	M	I	T	Y	N	I	T
P	A	C	A	L	T	U	N	Y	T	A	N	Q	N	O	U	A
S	B	N	G	I	V	O	I	S	C	T	S	A	E	B	P	Q
C	R	B	N	R	J	Z	D	M	L	V	H	M	M	D	L	D
R	Q	U	E	E	N	G	D	K	C	V	P	A	A	N	N	S
O	D	S	T	U	F	K	A	I	F	T	P	L	B	O	I	F
O	I	D	H	M	H	R	L	U	Z	R	I	L	G	T	E	T
G	A	O	O	W	D	B	A	W	I	A	N	E	N	W	A	V
E	M	R	D	O	E	X	Y	N	C	X	O	R	R	I	L	X
Q	R	O	N	R	J	U	C	J	K	K	C	E	K	Z	I	T
P	E	T	S	C	F	E	H	D	E	Y	C	D	N	A	C	M
Y	M	H	B	E	A	U	T	Y	K	F	H	N	B	R	E	F
N	E	Y	H	R	V	W	E	K	D	K	I	I	G	D	C	C
I	L	G	R	A	Z	Q	X	P	J	F	O	C	W	O	U	S
O	T	R	J	C	E	X	F	I	K	H	O	F	C	F	W	L
G	T	Z	Q	S	J	G	Y	C	R	M	L	L	I	O	N	Q
L	I	D	M	E	Z	Z	U	V	J	I	B	B	X	Z	P	H
A	L	Y	S	W	I	H	T	O	M	S	A	W	Y	E	R	A
G	N	I	K	C	O	T	S	G	N	O	L	I	P	P	I	P

Word Bank

Aladdin

Alice

Anne Frank

Beast

Beauty

Cinderella

Dorothy

Huck Finn

Knave

Lion

Little Mermaid

Pinocchio

Pippi Longstocking

Prince

Queen

Scare Crow

Scrooge

Tin Man

Tiny Tim

Tom Sawyer

Wizard of Oz



On Stage
with
American Family Theater



Be Creative!

Make a picture of your favorite scene in the performance. Be sure to show costumes, the set and the actors you like best.

